

GILLINGHAM GO DOWN

STUBBORN DEFENCE IN LAST NIGHT'S GAME

Tait's Brace

(By Crusader)

LUTON TOWN 2
GILLINGHAM nil
Kean, Imrie, Kingham, Hodgson;
McGinnigle, Fraser, Heslop,
M'Nestry, Tait, Rennie, Turner.
GILLINGHAM.—Burnett; McGregor, F.
Lester, Beacham, Collins, Bishop;
Williams, Shaw, Gelliaty, White, Ames.
Referee: Mr. W. J. Lewington, Croydon.
GILLINGHAM had not won a game at
LUTON since the War; they made
draws in 1923—24 and 1924—25, since
when they had experienced a very lean
time. They gave a very poor show on
the Town ground last night, and yet
there were not a few of the Town
followers who were expecting a sudden
salvo that would win the match, for
their defence was very strong, and, if
not too scrupulous on occasion, yet
meriting a lot of praise for the vigorous
and untiring resistance. It seemed that
the visitors took the field with an idea
of making good use of the knowledge
they gained from the defeat inflicted by
the Town at Gillingham a week ago;
they were more concerned with avoid-
ing defeat than with bidding for victory.
More than once in the first hour, despite
the territorial advantage of the Town,
Gillingham threatened to break through
and score, but when they had changed
ends they simply brought back halves
and inside forwards, and played a wholly
defensive game.

EARLY MISHAPS

Almost immediately the Town goal-
keeper had to deal with a long shot, and
the Town left wing made a raid, but
this was unsuccessful, and a spell of
mid-field play ensued. Rennie fell
heavily in trying to beat Beacham for
possession, and he was taken off with
a damaged wrist. In his absence the
visitors made a bold effort, but White
shot well wide, and a moment later
Imrie had to leave his goal to clear. A
free kick against Beacham was splendidly
placed by Kean, and Tait got his head
to the ball and turned it goalwards as
Lester collided with him, and both had
to receive attention from their respec-
tive trainers. A neat bit of work by
M'Nestry drew applause, and Heslop
centred, but McGregor kicked out. Then
Turner rushed through on the left and
muddled finely, and Tait was pulled up
or harassing the goalkeeper. Rennie
returned, and Turner forced a corner,
and M'Nestry shot over following the
lak-kick.

TOWN'S PRESSURE

Gillingham's left wing invaded, and
Imrie saved from Shaw, and Heslop was
diside in a second foray. When Gilling-
ham tried again Williams put in a nice
hot for Imrie to lift the ball over the
bar, the corner kick being in vain. A
beautiful pass by Rennie enabled Heslop
to race through again, and from his
entre Tait headed to the bar. Williams
was checked by Fraser, but came back
and shot finely, the ball going across
goal and out of play. Collins was
enlashed, and from the free kick Mc-
Ginnigle placed nicely, and Heslop seized
it, the rebound, and shot over. Tait
headed the ball well over after clever co-
operation with Heslop, and Rennie took
a free kick from the edge of the penalty
area, but his shot rebounded from a
corner of defenders, and his second
shot passed much too high.

RENNIE'S MISS

A quick run by the visitors' left gave
Shaw a chance, but his fast shot trav-
elled just wide. Then Kean made a de-
lightful run and gave Rennie a simple
chance, but with only the goalkeeper to
beat from about six yards range, Rennie
scraped the ball wide. Fraser put in a
grand bit of work, and Kean followed
suit, and from a scuffle in the goal-
mouth, Collins headed away, and another
characteristic try by Kean found Tait in
readiness, but the ball trickled wide.
The Town maintained the attack to the
change of ends, but they finished badly,
and the score at the turn-about found
a blank score sheet.

LUTON nil
GILLINGHAM nil

Play was not very bright on the re-
start, but a free kick against Kean for
pushing was got away without trouble,
and then McGregor held up the Town
left wing, but in a return visit Rennie
crashed a hot shot into the side net.
The Town pressed hotly, and Tait was
fouled, and from Turner's free kick
M'Nestry headed just wide. Heslop next
dashed through and centred finely, and
Rennie met the ball and drove in a
brilliant shot, only to find Burnett
equal with a grand save. A burst by
the visitors left Gelliaty well placed, but
he shot wildly behind. M'Nestry did
the same at the other end after Kean
had placed a free kick accurately, and
then Tait put in a nice shot that
Burnett saved well.

GOALS AT LAST

There was a little feeling shown at
times, and White had his name entered
in the referee's little book, apparently
for a remark when he was penalised.
A free kick from the edge of the penalty
area was fired over the bar by McGinnig-
le. Just over an hour's play had been
in progress when Kean opened up a
movement and sent Heslop away with a
clear course. The winger centred into
the goal, but the ball fell awkwardly,
and Burnett punched it up in the air
again; TAIT dashed in and headed into
the net for the first goal. Kingham
pulled up White and Gelliaty, and a
fine bout of passing by Fraser, Rennie
and Turner was ended by Rennie flash-
ing the ball only a few inches wide.
M'Nestry and Heslop beat Bishop, and
Heslop sent forward to TAIT, who ran
well in and then shot very hard; the
goalkeeper got his hands to the ball,
but turned it into his own goal.

RENNIE'S SHOTS

Imrie then had his first work since the
re-start, when he saved a long drive from
Williams, but the Town rushed back
again, and Fraser put in a great shot
which was well saved by Burnett. The

Town now pressed continuously, and
Rennie drove in once more at a tre-
mendous pace, the ball travelling very
close. Rennie again missed narrowly
with a fine effort, and Tait failed to
control after good work by the left
wing. The Town goalkeeper was called
upon, but had no difficulty, and the
Town attacked hotly, the visiting backs
defending stoutly. The final whistle
found the visitors still defending.

PLAYERS

Imrie did his little well, and Kingham
and Hodgson played as well as ever.
Kean and Fraser were the finest players
on view, both putting in grand work, and
McGinnigle gave a good exhibition at
centre-half, working wonderfully well
considering that this was his fifth game
in ten days. The same could be said
of Turner and Heslop, but neither had
too much of the ball, for the forwards
were still lacking combination, and their
efforts generally were disjointed. Rennie
shot well, especially after change of
ends, and Tait and M'Nestry did a lot
of work, but there was little combined
effort or co-operation.

For Gillingham the backs were very
good, and the halves played well as a
defensive department, while White was
easily the pick of the attack.

There were 7,000 spectators.